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Defense to Seek CIA Chief As Witness in B26 Case

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BUFFALO, N. Y. — The government will be asked today to bring Richard Helms, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, here as a defense witness in the case of three men accused of conspiring to smuggle B26 bombers to Portugal.

Helms' name heads the list of prospective witnesses to be submitted to Federal District Judge John O. Henderson by Edwin Marger of Miami Beach, attorney for John Richard Hawke, the bearded ex-Royal Air Force pilot who has admitted flying the seven planes from Tucson, Ariz., to Portugal.

Marger said he wants Helms on the witness stand for questioning about Hawke's contention that the entire operation was run by the CIA contrary to the announced policy of the U. S. government of not supplying arms to Portugal for use in its African possessions of Angola and Mozambique.

Would Be a "First"

Although not destitute, Hawke is indigent in the sense that he cannot afford to bring Helms and other key witnesses here for the trial, Marger said. He is thus asking Henderson to issue subpoenas and bring the wit-

nesses here at government expense.

If Helms does appear, it would be the first time the head of the CIA had testified in court and one of the few times that anyone from the agency had appeared in court as a witness.

The judge also will be asked to issue subpoenas for Richard M. Bissell, former deputy director of CIA for plans and one of the key architects of the Bay of Pigs invasion, and Arthur Schlesingers Jr., former White House assistant.

Marger said he hopes to show through them that the B26 operation followed a pattern established in other cases where the U. S. government said one thing, but through the CIA did another. The government, which has formally denied that it had any knowledge of the plan to transport the bombers to Portugal, is known to have under consideration the possibility of calling a CIA witness of its own in the case.

The CIA entered the case indirectly yesterday afternoon during cross-examination of Keat Griggers, a 42-year-old pilot-mechanic who was called as a prosecution witness after a three count indictment against him was dismissed.

Under questioning by Marger,

he recalled an incident in mid-1965 when Hawke spoke to a stranger in Tucson and afterward, told him that the man had given him some code words to expedite his flights to Portugal.

Tells of Code Words

Hawke has said that a man he believes was a CIA agent supplied him with two code words—"Monarch," for use if he got in trouble on the ground, and "Sparrow," for use in case of problems in the air. "Monarch," he has said "was a grand word" and even got him out of a jam after he had inadvertently flown over the White House in armor-plated bomber.

Griggers' chief contribution as a prosecution witness seemed to be his testimony that he actually saw the B26 bombers that he had examined in Tucson after they had been flown to the Portuguese Tancos Air Base, near Lisbon.

But he denied, under cross-examination, that he had entered into a conspiracy with Hawke or the other two defendants, Henri de Montmanin, a French count who allegedly acted as a go-between in the deal, or Woodrow Wilson Rodrick, a Canadian to whom the planes were allegedly transferred on paper.